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June 12, 1981

Mr. John E. Bacon  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 1981. I do wish to appeal the denial of release of Lyman Kirkpatrick's study of what went wrong at the Bay of Pigs.

My appeal is based on a belief that, with selective deletions, there would be no impairment of current national security. Moreover, the I.G.'s report, and the DDP "reclama" I have also applied for, are invaluable, now, to students and future government officials who wish a thoughtful and informed understanding of lessons from the recent past.

Almost all senior government officials testify that, after they enter office, they are almost overwhelmed by the pace of daily events. Highly classified studies, done many years before and which they may not even know exist, cannot help the government--in practice--to develop an institutional memory unless their substance has become available in the cumulative understandings and literature followed by people with serious concern for the functioning of government.

My professional interest, as a specialist in government learning, is to see what self-reflective lessons the C.I.A. drew at the time. I am especially interested in the conceptual maps the authors of these reports had, how they conceptualized policy-making, and implementation, processes. What is crucial about the Kirkpatrick report, and the reclama, is not any secrets they contain. With Wyden's book, Richard Bissell's cooperation, Kirkpatrick's article, the Kennedy Library materials, Hunt's memoirs, etc., I would be surprised if there were major secrets still untold.

Since my case for both the Kirkpatrick report and the reclama rests on the same grounds, if my pending request for the reclama should be denied, I would appreciate it if you would consider this letter a joint appeal for release of the substantial portions of both documents that would not infringe upon current national security.

Yours sincerely,

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